

## **Audiology Services**

**Definition:** Audiology Services are included in the MR/RD Waiver as an extension to the audiology services included in the State plan. In the State plan, specified audiology services are only available to Medicaid recipients who are under age 21. The MR/RD Waiver removes the age restriction, making the same audiology services available to those who are over age 21 and enrolled in the MR/RD Waiver.

Audiology Services are defined as those services which involve testing and evaluation of impaired hearing that cannot be improved by medication or surgical treatment; includes services related to hearing aid use and professional consultation. Services may include, but are not limited to, hearing evaluations and hearing aids.

Hearing evaluations include pertinent history, bone conduction thresholds, pure tone air conduction thresholds, speech discrimination scores, impedance testing and a written report with recommendations. For evaluations, one unit equals one evaluation and one evaluation every twelve (12) months can be provided.

Hearing aids can be provided when the need is established through an audiology evaluation and there is a physician's statement completed within the past six months indicating that there is no medical contraindication to the use of a hearing aid.

**Providers:** For hearing aids, repair of hearing aids, ear molds, and batteries Audiologist must be enrolled with DHEC/CRS. See the SCDDSN Website for a list of enrolled providers. For audiological evaluations and all other audiological services, audiologists licensed in South Carolina and enrolled with SCDHHS may be utilized.

**Arranging for the Services:** Once it is determined that a hearing evaluation or reevaluation is needed, you must update the plan to reflect the specific concerns and recommendation for the evaluation. The listing of enrolled providers must be shared with the recipient or his/her family and assistance provided as needed in selecting a provider. This offering of choice must be documented.

The need for the evaluation or reevaluation must be added to the Waiver Tracking System under Audiology Evaluation (S33). Once approved, the evaluation or reevaluation can be authorized by the individual's Medicaid Card. The individual must present their Medicaid Card to the audiologist. This directs the provider to bill Medicaid (SCDHHS) for the evaluation or reevaluation.

### **Hearing Aids:**

Upon receiving a copy of the evaluation, if the recipient needs a hearing aid or aids, the plan should be updated to include the need for the hearing aid or aids. The Waiver Tracking System must be updated to reflect the cost of the hearing aid or aids. **The cost cannot exceed \$700.00/aid unless justification is provided from the audiologist and is approved by DHEC-CRS/SCDHHS.** The cost of the needed hearing aid or aids should be entered onto the Waiver Tracking System under Audiology Services (S25) and approved. You must assist the family as

needed in obtaining a statement from the physician indicating that the use of a hearing aid is not contraindicated. This is called “Medical Clearance.” Medical Clearance cannot be given more than six (6) months prior to requesting the hearing aid. The “**Medical Clearance**” (**MR/RD Form M**) should be used or a statement from the physician will suffice, but it must state that the use of a hearing aid is not contraindicated. In addition, the consumer/legal guardian must sign the **Assignment of Benefits Allowing DHEC to Bill for Audiology Services Provided (MR/RD Form Z)**, which allows the Division of Children with Special Health Care Needs/South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (CRS/DHEC) to bill SCDHHS for the services. Once the physician gives “Medical Clearance” it should be forwarded to DHEC/CRS (Division of Children with Special Health Care Needs; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; Box 101106; Columbia, SC 29211) along with the **Audiology/Hearing Aid Services Referral Form (MR/RD Form A-21)** and **Assignment of Benefits Allowing DHEC to Bill for Audiology Services Provided (MR/RD Form Z)**. CRS/DHEC will coordinate with the identified Audiologist to provide the hearing aid/aids. The Audiologist will contact the service coordinator for any follow-up appointments needed. Once the consumer receives the hearing aid, the service coordinator must see the hearing aid in the recipient’s possession within 2 weeks after receipt. This monitorship must be documented.

#### **Ear Molds, Hearing Aid Repair, and/or Batteries:**

Upon receiving a copy of the evaluation, if the recipient needs ear molds, hearing aid repair, or batteries for their hearing aid (or if the recipient requests batteries or repair), the plan should be updated to include the need. The cost of the needed ear molds, hearing aid repair, or batteries should be entered onto the Waiver Tracking System under Audiology Services (S25) and approved. The cost for hearing aid repair cannot exceed \$154.00/aid. The cost of the molds cannot exceed \$77.00/mold. The cost of batteries varies depending on the size of the package. The cost used for batteries should be based on the price quote from the provider of choice. In addition, the consumer/legal guardian must sign the **Assignment of Benefits Allowing DHEC to Bill for Audiology Services Provided (MR/RD Form Z)**, which allows the Division of Children with Special Health Care Needs/South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (CRS/DHEC) to bill SCDHHS for the services. Once the request is approved, the **Audiology/Hearing Aid Services Referral Form (MR/RD Form A-21)** and **Assignment of Benefits Allowing DHEC to Bill for Audiology Services Provided (MR/RD Form Z)** should be forwarded to DHEC/CRS (Division of Children with Special Health Care Needs; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; Box 101106; Columbia, SC 29211). CRS/DHEC will coordinate with the identified Audiologist to provide the needed service or services. The Audiologist will contact the service coordinator for any follow-up appointments needed.

In addition to evaluation and re-evaluation and hearing aids, molds, repairs, and batteries, the following audiology services can be provided:

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| → Hearing Aid Evaluation  | payment rate \$49.00 |
| → Hearing Aid Orientation | payment rate \$24.00 |
| → Hearing Aid Analysis    | payment rate \$10.50 |
| → Hearing Aid Re-Check    | payment rate \$16.00 |

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| → Conduction Test      | payment rate \$8.50  |
| → Impedance Test       | payment rate \$10.25 |
| → Hearing Consultation | payment rate \$13.00 |

The Waiver Tracking System must be updated to reflect the cost of needed audiology services under Audiology Services (S25) on the Waiver Tracking System using the above noted prices. Once the service is approved the **Authorization for Services (MR/RD Form A-31)** will be forwarded to the Audiologist. The **Authorization for Services (MR/RD Form A-31)** instructs the provider to bill Medicaid for these services. The Audiologist will contact the service coordinator for any follow-up appointments needed. The service coordinator/early interventionist must obtain all results from any of the above services that are utilized by the recipient.

**Monitoring the Services:** You must monitor the effectiveness, frequency, duration, benefits, and usefulness of the service along with the recipient's/family's satisfaction with the service. Information gathered during monitoring may lead to a change in the service, such as an increase/decrease in units authorized, change of provider, change to a more appropriate service, etc. The following criteria should be followed when monitoring Audiology Services:

- Within two weeks of completion or notification of service by consumer

This service may be monitored during a contact with the individual/family or service provider. It must also involve a review of the evaluation. Some items to consider during monitorship include:

- What are the recommendations from the evaluation?
- If hearing aides, etc., are being recommended, is the person's hearing expected to increase or are the recommendations aimed at maintenance activities?

Audiology Services (i.e. Hearing Aids)

- If a hearing aid is provided, you must see the recipient with the hearing aid in his/her possession (within 2-3 weeks) after receipt.
- If other service provided, within two weeks of completion

This service may be monitored during a contact with the individual/family or service provider. Some items to consider during monitorship include:

- If hearing aides are provided, how are they working? Is the individual having difficulty using them or caring for them?
- Have the hearing aides improved their hearing?
- Do the ear molds fit comfortably?
- If a repair is made, is it complete and satisfactory for the individual?
- What the provider of service professional and helpful?

**Reduction, Suspension, or Termination of Services:** If services are to be reduced, suspended, or terminated, a written notice must be forwarded to the consumer or his/her legal guardian including the details regarding the change(s) in service, allowance for appeal, and a ten (10) calendar day waiting period before proceeding with the reduction, suspension, or termination of

the waiver service(s). The general termination form that has been used in the past for all waiver services is no longer used. See *Chapter 9* for specific details and procedures regarding written notification and the appeals process.

**S. C. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS MR/RD WAIVER  
AUDIOLOGY/HEARING AID SERVICES REFERRAL FORM  
AUTHORIZATION FOR SERVICES**

**AUDIOLOGIST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recipient's Name**

/

**Date of Birth**

**Address**

**Medicaid #:**        /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /

You are hereby authorized to provide the following service(s) to the person named above. Only the costs indicated may be billed. Please note: This nullifies any previous authorization to this provider for this service(s).

**Prior Authorization #**        /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /

**Hearing Aid Related Audiology Services:**

_____	Hearing Aid, In the Ear (V5050)	Cost: _____ (up to \$700.00/each)
	( ) left ear ( ) right ear	
_____	Hearing Aid, Behind the Ear (V5060)	Cost _____ (up to \$700.00/each)
	( ) left ear ( ) right ear	
_____	Hearing Aid, Body Worn, Bone Conduction (V5040)	Cost _____ (up to \$700.00/each)
	( ) left ear ( ) right ear	
_____	Hearing Aid, Body Worn, Air Conduction (V5030)	Cost _____ (up to \$700.00/each)
	( ) left ear ( ) right ear	
_____	Repair of Hearing Aid (V5014)	Cost _____ (up to \$154.00/each)
	( ) left ear ( ) right ear	
_____	Batteries for Hearing Aid (V5266)	Cost _____ (up to \$80/month)
_____	Ear Mold (V5264)	Cost _____ (up to \$77.00/each)
	( ) left ear ( ) right ear	
_____	Hearing Aid Accessories (V5267)	_____

\*Hearing Aids over \$700.00 require special justification from the audiologist and prior approval.

Service Coordinator:        Name / Address / Phone # (Please Print):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Authorizing Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Service Coordinator: After coordinating services with the Audiologist and budget approval, complete this form and send along with a copy of the Medical Clearance (if a hearing aid) and Assignment Benefits Statement to:  
Division of Children with Special Health Care Needs; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; Box 101106; Columbia, SC 29211

MR/RD Form A-21 (revised 6/06)

**S. C. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS  
MR/RD WAIVER**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR SERVICES  
TO BE BILLED TO SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES**

**TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**RE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recipient's Name**

/

**Date of Birth**

**Address**

**Medicaid #**

/ / / / / / / / / / /

You are hereby authorized to provide the following service(s) to the person named above. Only the number of units rendered may be billed. Please note: This nullifies any previous authorization to this provider for this service(s).

**Prior Authorization #** / / / / / / / / /

**Audiology Services:**

_____	Hearing Aid Evaluation: \$49.00
_____	Hearing Aid Orientation: \$24.00
_____	Hearing Aid Analysis: \$10.50
_____	Hearing Aid Re-Check: \$16.00
_____	Conduction Test: \$8.50
_____	Impedance Test: \$10.25
_____	Hearing Consultation: \$13.00

Service coordinator/early interventionist:      Name / Address / Phone # (Please Print):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Authorizing Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## MEDICAL CLEARANCE

<b>Name:</b>	_____
<b>Address:</b>	_____ _____
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	_____

<b>Medicaid #</b>	____/____/____/____/____/____/____/____/____/____/____/____
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**The use of the hearing aid or aids is not contraindicated for the above named person.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Physician's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

## ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS ALLOWING DHEC TO BILL FOR AUDIOLOGY SERVICES PROVIDED

**RE:**

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**Recipient's Name** / **Date of Birth**

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**Address**

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**Medicaid #**     /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /    /

By my signature below as legal guardian or consumer, I request that payment of Medicare/Medicaid or other Third Party Insurance benefits be made on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for any services provided me. Permission is also granted to DHEC to exchange medical or other confidential information as necessary to the Health Care Financing Administration, its agents or other agents needed to determine these benefits for related services.

Consumer/ Legal Guardian

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**Date**